

Horticulture Northwest

Journal of the Northwest Ornamental Horticultural Society



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Seattle, Washington 98195

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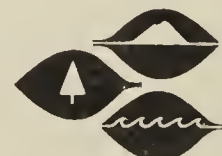
Horticulture Northwest

Volume 5 Number 1 Spring 1978

Sallie D. Allen, Editor

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Mareen S. Kruckeberg	



Ribes sanguineum

William H. Hatheway and Mareen S. Kruckeberg

A year or two after moving to the Seattle area, one of us (W.H.H.) made rather frequent collecting excursions to the Cascades and their foothills to become familiar with the flora of Western Washington. One of his objectives at that time was to transplant seedlings of all the conifers and many of the other woody perennials native to Washington State to his garden in order to learn what he could about their rates of growth, soil preferences, and possible uses in landscaping. On one such occasion in early spring, as he was walking along a muddy trail in an opening in a second-growth Douglas-fir forest north of Woodinville, he came across a colony of bright-red flowering shrubs, which on examination proved to be a species of currant. A search of the neighborhood of these large shrubs revealed a number of small plants. He dug up three of these and transplanted them to a sunny open place in his garden. He had no difficulty in identifying a twig of the flowering material as *Ribes sanguineum* Pursh. and, in view of the plant's obvious attractiveness, he was not surprised to learn that it was well known to botanists and horticulturists as an ornamental shrub.

A few years later his three bushes were about six feet tall and were regularly putting on a spectacular display from late February through much of March -- usually two to three weeks after the height of the crocus season. A number of friends, many of them long-time Seattle-area residents interested in gardening, have happened to stop by his house since these plants began to flower, and almost all have expressed their sincere admiration for the beauty of this species. Most have asked where they might obtain material for their own gardens. We suppose that *Ribes sanguineum* must be available in some Seattle-area nurseries, but it does not seem to be particularly easy to obtain. Although regrettable, this situation is not too surprising. It is by no means uncommon for a plant to be without honor in its own country. In tropical Latin America, for example, many gardeners would rather grow roses than orchids and other spectacular native ornamentals, which are regarded as rather ordinary.

Certainly our British cousins appreciate *Ribes sanguineum*. Specimens of this species were first collected by Arthur Menzies, the botanist on Captain Vancouver's expedition, in 1793. About 30 years later, the famous collector David Douglas sent materials to England for propagation. That *R. sanguineum* has been a favorite plant in European gardens is shown by the development from it there of at least 11 named horticultural varieties. Perhaps the most spectacular of these is "King Edward VII", a dwarf form with intense crimson flowers. In fact, many (if not most) of the forms commonly grown in the Pacific Northwest seem to have originated in England. Additional evidence of the popularity of *R. sanguineum* in Britain is Alice M. Coats' statement (in her Book of Flowers, 1973) that David Douglas' introduction of this species alone was worth the whole cost of his three year expedition, some £400 according to the Royal Horticultural Society.

Ribes sanguineum is a shrub seven to eight or even ten feet tall with three to six rather stout stems arising from its base. In young plants and new shoots growing from cuttings, the leaves are rather widely spaced along

the stems, but in mature plants they are clustered on short side twigs called spur branches. The leaves are one to two inches broad, round or almost maple-shaped in outline, with three or five lobes which have wavy or slightly toothed margins. These leaves have soft, almost silky hairs on their lower surfaces. The soft new twigs and leafy stems of W.H.H.'s plants are covered with sticky glandular hairs. Under the hand lens these glands look like tiny stalks with sticky red globular tips. The flowers occur in nodding clusters (racemes), usually with 10 to 25 flowers in a raceme, opening at the same time as the new leaves unfold, those at the base of the cluster (i.e., nearest the leaves) opening first.

In W.H.H.'s plants the five outside flower segments (calyx lobes) are bright rosy pink and are widely spread. The central part of the flower consists of a tube formed of five erect petals, which in his plants are white or slightly rosy at the edges. The five white stamens with their yellow anthers alternate with the petals in this central tube. The whole effect is charming, rather like the sprays of some miniature-flowered pinky white orchids of the genus *Epidendrum*. The fruits are very dark blue to black berries, but are covered by a light blue waxy bloom. In W.H.H.'s garden they seem to be largely ignored by the birds, and many persist, shriveled, on the bushes until spring.

One of the most enjoyable aspects of gardening is the opportunity it offers to observe interactions of plants with native animals, particularly birds. Although many animals are color-blind, birds (so far as we know) are not, and fruit-eating birds are attracted to bright-colored fruits. The flowers of salmonberries, fuchsias, fireweeds, and many other red-flowered plants are visited by hummingbirds. Although we have occasionally observed hummingbirds visiting our *Ribes sanguineum* bushes, it turns out that bumblebees are much more common pollinators. We suspect that this is because *R. sanguineum* has usually passed its peak of flowering several weeks before most Rufous Hummingbirds arrive in Seattle. A few Anna's Hummingbirds remain in Seattle through



R. sanguineum

the winter, presumably largely dependent on bird-feeders; these may be the visitors to our plants. Our native bumblebees are active at much lower temperatures than the introduced honey bee and consequently are important pollinators of many of our early spring plants.

As we have already noted, a number of named horticultural varieties have been developed, mostly in England. In flower color these vary from plants with crimson or rosy red sepals and central tubes (var. *splendens*), through rosy pink forms with white centers, to essentially white flowered types (var. *albidum* and var. *albescens*). *Ribes sanguineum* var. *glutinosum* is a naturally occurring southerly variant (chiefly coastal California) of our Northwest species. Its leaves are less hairy and its flower clusters more conspicuously drooping than those of our area, and it is generally more glandular.

It is our experience that *Ribes sanguineum* is easy to propagate from late wood cuttings. One of us (M.S.K.) has found that cleaned fresh seeds germinate if they have been stratified for about three months at 32° to 36° F. This is readily accomplished by spreading the seeds on moist paper towels, which are then rolled up and placed in a conspicuously labeled covered glass jar in the corner of the family refrigerator (if not labeled, they are likely to be thrown out by a zealous spouse eager to dispose of unnecessary clutter). By early spring these cold-treated seeds can be sown in a small flat on the surface of a sandy potting soil, which should be kept moist.

The genus *Ribes* contains more than 100 species, rather well distributed in the northern hemisphere. The genus is also well represented in Central America and the Andes (to southern Chile). W. H. Camp, a student of the genus, believed that the Andean species were more primitive than the better known Northern Hemisphere ones. If Camp was right, *Ribes* may have originated as a genus far south of our area. The Northern Hemisphere species can be grouped into two natural subgenera, the gooseberries (*Grossularia*) which are armed with spines, and the currants (*Ribes*) which are unarmed.

All species of *Ribes* are potentially alternate hosts for the white pine blister rust caused by the fungus *Cronartium ribicola* Fisher, which was introduced to the United States on coniferous nursery stock about 70 years ago. There have been a number of fruitless campaigns to eradicate the blister rust by destroying wild *Ribes* bushes. The careless introduction of this disease was particularly inexcusable, in as much as before blister rust reached North America it had long been known that this disease could wipe out susceptible pines in forests and plantations in Europe. Obviously, there is some danger in growing species of *Ribes* and white pines in proximity to one another. Fortunately, the disease is not common in Seattle, for several species of white pines and *Ribes sanguineum* have been grown within a few hundred yards of one another for many years in the Arboretum.

In our area *Ribes sanguineum* occurs in moist to relatively dry soils, in open situations or near the edges of forests from the coast to the lower hills of the Cascades. It is our experience that this shrub develops and flowers best in open sunny situations and tends to become somewhat leggy in partially shaded spots.

We are grateful to Professor A. R. Kruckeberg for generously providing us with much valuable information he has brought together, and to Mr. J. A. Witt for his helpful comments.



Myosotidium hortensia

Illustration: Mareen S. Kruckeberg

Myosotidium hortensia

CHATHAM ISLAND FORGET-ME-NOT

Brian Halliwell
Royal Botanic Gardens Kew
Richmond, Surrey, England

Woodland gardens consist of three tiers. In the top are the trees which provide protection against wind and sun and retain cooler and moister conditions below. Beneath are shrubs with rhododendrons tending to pre-dominate and on the floor is the third, a ground cover of herbaceous plants. A spectacular plant for this tier is the Chatham Island forget-me-not, *Myosotidium hortensia*. Chatham Island is one of many which go to make up New Zealand and it is situated some 500 miles east of its South Island in the South Pacific. In its island home it grows near to the sea in pockets of humus above the high tide mark or on cliffs. It was amongst the earliest of plants collected by white explorers and it was from one of their gardens that it was first described by a botanist, hence its specific epithet.

From a stout rootstock develops a rosette of leaves which are carried on long stems. They are large, reaching up to nine inches and can be roundish, oval or heart-shaped, are shining green and heavily ribbed beneath. In spring, usually May, a stout flower stem develops up to two feet in height which carries a large cluster of blue flowers each of which is like a large forget-me-not. *Myosotidium* suggests this likeness to forget-me-not which belongs to the genus *Myosotis* in which the plant was once classified. Flower color can be variable from pure white through many shades of mauve and purple and even to the deepest of blue. To ensure plants with flowers of a good color always collect seeds from plants of the purest shade and rogue out all seedlings when they come into flowers. Following pollination clusters of large flat winged seed are produced.

Seed is the most usual way of increase although for those gardeners lucky enough to have established clumps division can be carried out after flowering. The seed has a short life and so needs to be sown as fresh as possible to ensure the best germination. Push each seed separately into small pots filled with a compost of equal parts of lime-free soil, sand and peat, and following watering, place in gentle heat of 55°-65° F. Following germination, shade from direct sun and do not allow the compost to dry out. When the pots fill with roots transfer to containers of a larger size or they can be lined out in a nursery or put into their final positions.

To the soil where they are to be planted, work in leaf mould or peat and dress with bone meal. Select a site where the soil does not dry out during summer and where there is only light shade; if shade is too deep, plants are unlikely to flower. They are perfectly happy in full exposure where there is plenty of summer rainfall.

They will tolerate considerable cold as long as the ground does not freeze to any depth. April is the best time for planting but in areas where winters are mild they can be set out in the fall as long as the soil is thoroughly moist. In March or early April as the soil begins to warm up an annual mulch of organic matter such as peat, leaf mould or garden compost is beneficial with a very light dressing of a general fertilizer.

It is a plant which is relatively trouble free if planted in a lime-free soil although slugs seem partial to the young developing new leaves. Greenfly can be troublesome especially in dry and warm summers. These get into the crown and feed on the folded young leaves which as they develop become mottled and distorted. If these pests are not controlled or get well established so that control is difficult, the plant declines and death can follow.

As a foliage plant alone the Chatham Island forget-me-not can take its place in the woodland with the hostas (plantain lilies) but its crowning glory is its large cluster of sky-blue flowers.

How to Buy and Plant a Camellia

Ed Lewis
Bellevue, Washington

Choosing a *Camellia* for a permanent specimen planting in the landscape justifies careful attention to selecting a reliable source for a healthy, well formed plant. It is a slow growing, long lived plant and to perform its best, deserves a well prepared site to meet the natural conditions found in a semitropical forest.

The sources for obtaining good *Camellia* plants are quite limited in the Pacific Northwest due to the cost of winter protection for the young potted plants. The bulk of the plants available are obtained from California growers and consist of the usual common varieties. Your local nurseryman is a good source for reliable plants.

A few nurserymen are propagating camellias on a small scale in the Seattle area but the supply is very limited. The best source of locally grown plants is the annual plant sale conducted by the University of Washington Arboretum Foundation. In the Portland area there are a few specialists who are propagating some of the newer varieties. Expect to see some of these available at the annual *Camellia* Flower Show at Jantzen Beach Mall, April first and second.

A sure way of getting started with the newer varieties is to join the Oregon *Camellia* Society. The members are most generous with their scions and you can propagate your own plants by grafting in December or January, or by cuttings from July through September.

For those who must have budded plants of choice varieties, I suggest that you get a catalogue from Nuccio's Nursery, 3555 Chaney Trail, Altadena, California, 91001.

Choosing A Plant

In selecting a plant pick the best of those available with a *single trunk*. The plant should have clean dark green foliage with well developed buds at the shoot terminals. The length of last years growth is an indication of the health and vigor of the roots. Avoid a small plant in a large pot or a large plant in a small pot. The former has just been repotted and the latter is

likely pot-bound. Avoid plants in very rusty containers which may even be corroded out at the ground line.

Camellia reticulata is usually grafted onto *C. sasanqua* or *C. japonica* understock. Many *C. japonica* are also propagated by grafting. When buying a grafted *Camellia*, observe the graft union for signs of good callousing. Plants only partially calloused or showing any signs of rot in this area should be avoided.

The best time to buy a *Camellia* is when it is in bloom. In the Seattle-Portland area many *C. japonica* varieties will be in bloom during March and April. By seeing the plant in flower, you can be sure that you are getting the proper type correctly named plant. If you are unfamiliar with names, a trip through the University of Washington Arboretum upper drive, stopping at the *Camellia* planting, will acquaint you with many of the hardy reliable varieties. Attending a *Camellia* flower show will introduce you to many new exotic cultivars in *Camellia japonica*, *reticulata* and hybrids.

In planting a *Camellia* it is well to remember the natural condition where they grow wild as understory trees, protected from wind and sun. On sloping hillsides they grow in well drained soil mulched and fed by decaying leaves and twigs with a continuous supply of water.

Planting Your Camellia

Six important conditions are required for a healthy *Camellia*. These are:

1. Slightly acid, humusy soil.
2. Good drainage.
3. Partial shade.
4. Shallow planting.
5. Constant moisture.
6. Adequate mulch.

Choose a planting site with partial shade from mid-day and western sun. Protection is needed from northern winds and winter morning sun and may be provided by shrubs, walls, fences or other structures. Sun tolerant camellias include all of the *Camellia sasanqua* cultivars and a few *C. japonica*.

Dig the planting hole at least 36 in. wide and 12 in. to 16 in. deep, leaving a pedestal of undisturbed earth in the center to prevent settling. See illustration. Loosen the bottom of the hole with a spading fork. Measure the depth of the soil in the pot or root ball and cut back the earth pedestal enough so that the top of the root ball will be about two inches above the surrounding soil. Remove the root ball from the pot. Carefully loosen some of the roots at the bottom and side of the ball with a sharp tool such as a screwdriver. Place the plant in position and stake if necessary. Do not remove burlap if wrapped. Fill in the hole around the root ball even with the surrounding ground with the following prepared soil mix.

A good planting mix consists of half fine fir bark and half sand, or two buckets each of bark, old wood chips and rotting leaves plus six buckets of sand or sandy loam. To this mix add a quarter cup dolomite, a quarter cup of superphosphate and one tablespoon of FTE (fritted trace elements).

After filling in the planting hole, do not tamp the soil mix, but allow it to settle with water. Later a small amount of mix may be added to level the hole. Using transplanting aids such as Vitamin B1 may be helpful. If any wilting occurs temporary shade should be provided until new growth begins.

Make a small ridge around the edge of the planting hole to retain water. To provide a cool root area, apply four inches of mulch using pine needles, oak leaves, coarse bark or wood chips. Do not mulch with peat, fine bark or sawdust, which may form a thatch and shed water. Keep the root area moist with thorough watering. Do not feed the *Camellia* the first six months after planting.



Veronica grandiflora

Illustration: Virginia Howie

NEWSLETTER

Spring 1978

A Supplement to Horticulture Northwest

COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members and Friends,

SPRINGTIME! Activities quicken, NOHS is no exception.

Your board has resolved to establish an endowment fund for horticultural education. Our goal is \$100,000.

Two garden tours are planned - one, a visit to several gardens on Bainbridge Island; the other, a walking tour of Capital Hill gardens.

Two plant sales are in the calendar.

Our program lecture series is well under way.

Jones and Jones has completed the plans for the Washington Park Arboretum. It now awaits approval by the University and the city of Seattle.

As an addition to our Quarterly, this centerfold is being expanded to include Society activities and news. A name for it is needed. Any ideas?

Membership committee reports that we have over 500 members!

We look forward to your input. Do feel free to call any board member with your ideas.

Happy Spring!!



Ann Herron

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Change of Address or corrections in name, address or phone number, please notify Helen Lea, Membership Chairman, 329-0770. You will not want to miss receiving your Journal or notices of important coming events. It costs the NOHS 25¢ per item returned, money we would all rather spend on projects within the Arboretum program.

YEAR BOOK CORRECTION

On the inside back cover under NURSERIES"

Foliage Gardens Hardy and Exotic Ferns
Sue Olsen - by appointment - 747-2998

CONTRIBUTED FUNDS

Funds have been contributed to the University of Washington Arboretum for the purchase of the following books: Flora Japonica - \$1,535.00
Maples by J. D. Vertrees - \$41.00



Membership Application
NORTHWEST ORNAMENTAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Purpose:

Shall be to further horticultural development and maintenance of the University of Washington Arboreta and plant life situated therein.

Membership activities encompass:

Lecture Series, Study Groups, Annual Fall Plant Sale, Tours of gardens of horticultural interest, Quarterly Horticultural Journal.

(Please fill in form as you wish information to appear in yearbook.)

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(Membership renewals will come due January, May and September, whichever month is closest to date of Membership Application.)

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 Seattle, Washington 98195

TELEPHONE: 543-8800

TYPES OF MEMBERSHIP:

- ☐ Life \$500.00
- ☐ Sponsoring \$100.00 & \$500.00
- ☐ Supporting \$ 50.00
- ☐ Contributing \$ 25.00
- ☐ Sustaining \$ 10.00
- ☐ Annual \$ 7.50
- ☐ Group Membership Minimum \$ 10.00

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March 6, 1978

ANDERSON, Mr. Richard E. 897-8279
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13906 - 2nd N.E., Seattle 98125

HORNING, Mr. & Mrs. Roy A. 624-1659
Box 4875, Carmel, CA 93921

MICHEL, Mrs. J. C. 322-9036
The Highlands, Seattle 98177

COMING GARDEN EVENTS

March 11- House Plant Sale and Clinic
 March 19 Sponsored by: Washington Diabetes Assoc. Kingdom

March 18 Plant Sale
 Sponsored by: Seattle Rhododendron Study Group
 10:00 AM - Noon
 Wells Medina Nursery, 8300 NE 24th, Medina (Bellevue)

March 30 Spring Horticulture On Display
 & 31 Sponsored by: Arboretum Foundation Unit Council
 30th-12 Noon-5; 31st-10:00-3:00
 Museum of History and Industry

April 1 Camellia Show
 & 2 Sponsored by: Oregon Camellia Society
 Jantzen Beach Mall, Portland, Oregon

April 1 Early Rhododendron Show
 & 2 Sponsored by: Seattle Rhododendron Society
 1st-2:00-6:00; 2nd-10:00-5:00
 Snoqualmie Room, Seattle Center

April 13 Camellia: The Overlooked Beauty
 Mr. Ed Lewis
 Sponsored by: NOHS
 10:00 AM Exhibits; 10:30 Meeting and Program
 Pacific Science Center

April 19 Annual Plant Sale
 & 20 Sponsored by: Supporters of Childrens
 Orthopedic Hospital
 19th- 9:00 AM - 4 PM; 20th- 9:00 - 1:00
 University Village

April 23 House Plant Sale
 Proceeds to Arboretum Foundation Plant Sale
 10:00 - 4:00
 Isobel Johnson 2840 - 40th West

April 26 Bainbridge Island Garden Tour
 (Short Rhododendron Garden & Blodel Reserve)
 Sponsored by: NOHS
 9:00 Meet at Washington Park Arboretum Offices
 4:00 PM Return
 \$6.00 covers bus and ferry; advance reservations required. Send check to 1215 Lexington Way, Seattle 98112 by April 22. Your check is your reservation.

May 3 Annual Plant Sale
 & 4 Sponsored by: Arboretum Foundation
 3rd- 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM; 4th- 10:00 AM - 4:00PM
 Washington Park Arboretum

June 1 Garden Tour - The City Garden, a Walking Tour
 Sponsored by: NOHS
 Watch for details

June 22- Annual Fern Sale
 June 24 Sponsored by: NOHS
 22nd-10:00-6:00; 23rd-10:00-6:00;
 24th 10:00-1:00
 Bellevue Square Pavilion

Veronica grandiflora

Maxcine Williams
Eugene, Oregon

Alaska was invaded by a Japanese inhabitant long before World War II. But don't be alarmed for the invader was only a little plant. From the Northern Kurile Islands of Japan, across the land bridge to the Aleutians, came this beautiful flower. It has climbed the island chain as far as Adak.

Veronica grandiflora (Aleutian speedwell) is a low plant increasing by underground runners from a small rhizome. The leaves are ovate to oblanceolate, opposite, on short stems, hairy on the upper surface, the irregular edges fringed with hairs. The flowers, on naked, hairy stems up to three inches high, are a deep blue or violet-blue and up to one half inch across, making it Alaska's largest flowered *Veronica*. The more or less flat, open-faced flowers, with a yellow center, have a few long white stamens that stick out like cat's whiskers. It has a long blooming time starting the later part of June and running into July.

On Attu it formed solid beds by a tiny stream but was not adverse to a gravel bed which had subsurface moisture. It has been collected on Adak but I did not find it.

It is difficult to get to one of its natural habitats in Alaska as Attu is 1700 air miles from Anchorage. There is nothing there, except a Coast Guard Loran Station, and one must bring EVERYTHING with one. Adak is a Naval Reserve and one must get permission to stay over and have a darn good reason why you want to!

Two Anchorage gardens have had success with the plant and perhaps there are others who have it now.

* * * * *

Pruning: The first two books listed below are the ones recommended by Chico Narro in his NOHS lecture, January 12th; the third book is also good and less expensive, according to him.

The Pruning Manual by Liberty H. Bailey, revised by Everett P. Christopher 1966, McMillan. New York.

Tree Maintenance by P. P. Pirone
Oxford University Press. 1972

Pruning by Roy L. Hudson
Galahad Books, New York.

Species Roses in the Northwest

Edith C. Schurr, Edmonds, Washington

PART III

Rosa Rugosa

Rosa rugosa and the white form *alba* I have left until last because they are a race apart and quite easy to identify. Of all roses they are best suited to growing near salt water, and their vigor propagates them in great clumps of thorny growth. They are superb for making "Keep Out" hedges, impervious to man or beast. The foliage alone makes them readily recognizable; the "crumpled leather" foliage from which they get their name, is unmistakable. The blooms are large and handsome, up to six inches across under good conditions, and wonderfully fragrant. Rugosas set hips of great beauty (and I have to mention that they are high in Vitamin C), the size of crab apples, bright red and shiny. Because the rugosas have readily hybridized, it is difficult to distinguish species from the hybrids. The Sitka Rose is of *R. rugosa* origin, but that is a collective name for at least six variations of white, pink or dark pink colors descended from the rugosas, strong and winter-hardy, apparently making their way to Alaska and much of the west coast from their origin in Japan and Korea. To add to the confusion, rugosas are inclined to be variable in blooming; the same plant can produce single flowers one time and double blooms the next time, in defiance of any rules on the subject. *R. rugosa alba* produces, once a year, large snowy white blooms of five petals, remarkable fragrant. The double form, "Blanc Double de Coubert", which is recurrent, is magnificent, if you like rugosas and oddly enough some people don't. *R. rugosa* type blooms only once, with very fragrant blooms of five petals in a vibrant pinkish-red shade, and there are several hybrids of double form which I consider most attractive. Which is and which is not a species *rugosa* is a question not clearly defined; in general a species is of single form and many rugosas have double blooms. All of the rugosas are so distinctive that they are unmistakable and when you find one you know what you have found.

Other species will grow and thrive in the northwest, if introduced from just about any other area of the U.S. or foreign lands, with the exceptions of the hot-weather varieties which cannot tolerate cold weather. And even some of these, given a sheltered location, so far continue to do well in my garden, namely *Rosa bracteata*, *R. laevigata*, *R. leschenaultii*, *R. fortuneana* and *R. watsoniana*. Be advised, however, that species roses on their own roots may produce monstrous growth which may be difficult to control, so allow plenty of room.

The problem of identification of species is difficult, especially when only a botanist can distinguish some from others, but there are some guidelines. Having blooms to see is a help of course, but there are other signs - growth pattern; canes and foliage; size, shape and number of leaflets; arrangement and types of thorns and prickles; size, shape and color of hips,

and growing locale, all give clues. These roses are growing naturally; they are not grafted so are on their own roots and every one of them spreads a network of roots underground to survive and grow. Every one sets hips which are mostly viable, but the hips are of different size and shape, color and arrangement on the canes.

Identification help is at hand in several references: Leoni Bell, noted artist, whose book with Helen Van Pelt Wilson, *The Fragrant Year* is warmly recommended for any library, has a splendid article in the 1970 *American Rose Society Annual*, entitled *Rose Signatures*, and another in the 1976 *Annual* called *Found Roses*. A valuable old rose book by Mrs. Frederick Love Keays has been a valuable reference, but long out of print, but a copy of her *Key to Identification* can be obtained from Huntington Library, San Marino, California, if you are unable to find a copy in a library. The 1976 *ARS Annual* also contains a fine article on rugosas by Mrs. Frank Earing. Charles Walker, Jr. has written a fine series of articles on *Species Identification* for the *Heritage Roses Group Rose Letter*, of which I've been editor for the past year. Mr. Carl Cato, 5916 Hines Circle, Lynchburgh, Virginia 24502, will serve as editor for the next year and is planning to reprint the Walker articles in a pamphlet, which may be obtained from him.

Finding and identifying species roses is a great activity of continuing interest, quite apt to become addictive. A rose is distinctive enough to be recognized even in a tiny seedling, or a new plant growing from underground to surprise you. Happy hunting and roses to you!

(Conclusion)

EDITH SCHURR

EDITH C. SCHURR was born in Missouri in 1904, and the spring she was three years old began to learn the names of the roses in her parents' garden. Throughout an academic career as student and teacher, she has maintained her love of roses. She has traveled widely, often as lecturer, and is a member of the American Rose Society, Royal National R.S., Bermuda Rose Society, and directed an old rose seminar for the International Convention of the World Federation of Rose Societies. She is Chairman of the Old Rose Committee of the ARS Pacific Northwest District and Chairman of the ARS Old Garden Rose Committee. She has won many awards as a Rosarian, and instructed in the judging of old roses in Judging Schools. She has always carried on a crusade to promote old garden roses, and has given a complete collection of her roses, some quite rare, to the Edmonds Community College for their Heritage Garden, to be landscaped and maintained by the Horticulture students. Last year she was consulted about fragrant roses, and put in two dozen rose bushes to enhance the Lions Club Fragrance Garden for the Blind, in Sierra Park in Edmonds. She is Northwest Coordinator of the Heritage Roses Group, an international organization of old rose enthusiasts.

Seed Collecting in the Wild

Eileen Sutton
Seattle, Washington

Plans for collecting seed in the wild can be a year-round project. Materials can be assembled, trips planned, and plants selected, all well ahead of harvest time. Tight containers are essential. Otherwise runaway seeds escaping from them often perish in our pockets. Small brown paper bags like those containing nails from the hardware store (about four by seven inches or less), after labeling, may be folded down and kept tight with rubber bands. Small envelopes can be used but guard against open corners. If one knows the little trick of folding a spill-proof packet, some squares of firm paper are needed. Small plastic bottles can be used if their stoppers are safe and there is room for labeling. But those who have fought battles with jumping seeds and static seldom use plastic bags. All containers should be marked with a heavy dark pencil or a broad-pointed pen.

In Spring when a special plant catches one's eye, it can be marked for a later return for seed. A small, inconspicuous wooden marker that will not leave debris if one does not return, can be placed at the base of the shrub or plant to help identify the special one. Later, drying seed pods, darkening seeds, and splitting capsules all indicate that gathering time is near, or at hand. But patience is needed; immature seeds produce poor or no progeny and are a waste. Be sure to write the date, name or description and habitat on the packet before putting in the seeds of the selected plant. Memories are sometimes short and often inaccurate and writing done over seeds or seed heads is usually illegible.

Let us remember that we are trespassers in nature's garden, that we must not strip her of all her harvest, or leave her garden untidy, but be grateful that she does provide us, in those tiny miraculous seeds, joy and beauty that we otherwise could not know.

Seed Propagation

Altha Miller
Issaquah, Washington

To me, the propagation of plants by seed is the most fascinating aspect of gardening, especially when a *Rhododendron*, *Azalea*, or *Menziesia* you have raised from seed blooms for the first time.

After many years of trying different methods of raising plants from seed, I have found a method which is both simple and successful. I use a good grade of sphagnum-like peat and sand which are both sterile and eliminate the unpleasant and messy task of sterilizing soil. Straight peat or peat with a small amount of sand mixed in is ideal for sowing *Ericaceae* or *Diapensiaceae* seed. I've tried both mixtures and they are equally good. How-

ever most kinds of seed prefer a sand-peat mixture, about two-thirds sand and one-third peat (the peat helps to hold moisture). The moist mixture should be patted firmly into a clean flat or plastic pot and seeds scattered on the surface, except for large seeds which should be pressed into the mixture so they are covered. Then the flat should be lightly and gently watered and a close fitting pane of glass placed on top and covered with newspaper. When sowing very fine seed of difficult alpine, I scatter small rock chips, such as chicken or turkey scratch over the surface of the mixture, sow the seeds and water in. Plastic pots are best used for these seeds as sometimes it takes several years for them to germinate.

The glass should be checked frequently and wiped off if very much moisture accumulates underneath. The newspaper should be removed when the seed start to germinate and the flat or pot moved out of the direct sunlight. When the seedlings have grown one-half to one inch high, the glass can be removed during the day, depending on the weather, then covered at night, to harden off the seedlings preparatory to transplanting. Never let your seedlings dry out as this usually proves to be fatal. When the glass is removed it is wise to place a screen over your flat or pot to protect the tiny seedlings from birds, squirrels and chipmunks as they have a fondness for scratching out plants.

Book Review

Woody Plants in the University of Washington Arboretum Washington Park

Brian O. Mulligan, University of Washington, College of Forest Resources, 1977. 183 pages with fold-out map of the Arboretum. Paperback \$4.50, Hardcover \$8.00

Although I've spent many hours wandering through the University of Washington Arboretum, I had no idea of the tremendous variety of plants there until I picked up this book. At the very least, it's an education in humility for people who think they know the Arboretum. Used frequently, it can be a key which unlocks the horticultural richness there in a way that has never before been possible.

On one level, this book is a useful reference for a serious gardener's library. There are no descriptions of individual species, but Mr. Mulligan has listed the native area of each species and the family which each genus belongs to. It's particularly useful for finding out the proper name of a plant that has several synonyms.

I think, however, that the best way to use this book is out in the Arboretum, perhaps with a waterproof cover. Each type of plant has a code which, when used with the map, directs you to the area of the Arboretum where it may be found. I have several plants picked out that I've read about and would like to see for myself. There are also several genera I'd like to explore, finding all the species that the Arboretum has, which is a form of study that was impossible until this book was published. Mr. Mulligan has my heartfelt thanks.

Ginny McElwain

Tidbits

by Ladybug



More on mailing seeds: Write "Please Hand Cancel" on a strip of paper about two inches wide and wrap it firmly as a "sleeve" around your ready-to-go letter in such a position as the stamp and address are obscured. Tape the two ends together in back, leaving it free of the envelope so it may be slipped off. It is quickly and easily put on, cannot be overlooked at the postal sorting, and is easily ripped off - before the chance of "SMASH - Too late, too bad!"



Attention greenhouse owners: We understand that Mr. Hjalmar Larson has almost entirely eliminated harmful insect pests by using mothballs, hung in nylon net bags, throughout his greenhouse.



Don't harm the bees! Most sprays will harm the bees if they contact them; spraying early in the day or late will save most of them as they generally forage during the warmer hours.



Moles: We have often been told that if we have an invasion of moles, we need them as they are feeding on the harmful insects in our soil. This is precious little comfort when, for example, I found my very rare *Shortia uniflora* var. *leucantha* at the top of a mound, morning after morning. It finally expired completely after it was transplanted to apparently safer territory. Gasses, poisons on the market, even mole plants have been tried. The arduous task of trapping seems to be the last remaining sure fire method that we know of, unless some of our members have some information to share with us.



Garden visitor's guest book: In visiting private gardens throughout England and Scotland it seemed to be a wide spread tradition to be asked to sign a guest book. It is always a joy to welcome visitors who share your gardening interests and a signed and dated entry in a guest book allows one to look back and relive a pleasant experience.



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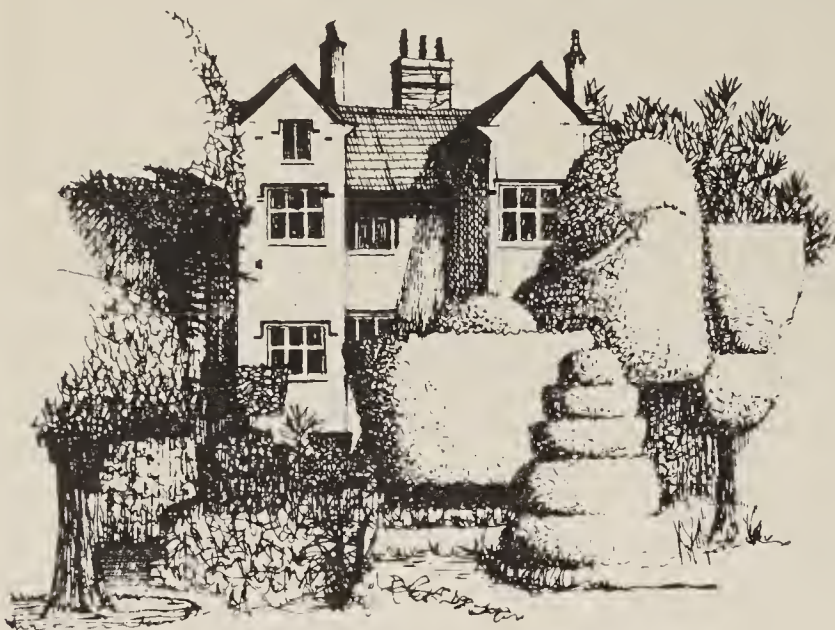
EXCHANGE

<p>The Rhododendron Study Group would like plants, seed or cuttings of any eastern species or variety of Kalmia, Rhododendron macrophyllum, Leucothoe fontanesiana. Call Marge Baird, 454-3862.</p>	<p>Wanted eastern US form of Cassiope hypnoides or Phyllodoce caerulea, James F. Cross, Box 730, Cutchogue, NY 11935.</p>
<p>Wanted: Plant or seed of the white form of Ribes sanguineum. Mareen S. Kruckeberg, 20055 15th NW., Seattle WA 98177.</p>	<p>Try our small ads in the Gardner's Exchange. They bring results.</p>
<p>Wanted: Plant or cuttings of Rhodothamnus chamaecistus. Roger Gossler 1200 Weaver Rd., Springfield, OR 97477.</p>	<p>Please save your PLASTIC POTS, 3" to gallon can size, for Mareen Kruckeberg, phone 546-1281. She will exchange for a free rare plant from MSK Nursery.</p>
<p>Wanted: Cuttings or small plant: Rhododendron ericoides, Gaultheria microphylla, Disterigma empetrifolia, Diapensia lapponica. Sallie D. Allen, 18540 26th Ave. NE, Seattle, WA 98155.</p>	<p>The ERICACEAE STUDY GROUP is compiling a slide library of Northwest native Ericaceae in the wild and in gardens. Please contribute your extra slides to this collection, which will be available on loan for educational purposes. Send slide to Ginny McElwain 6815 42nd Ave. NE, Seattle, WA 98115.</p>
<p>Wanted: Spore of Bommeria hispida, Asplenium adullerenum, A. conensoi, A. germanicum, Gleichenia decarpa var. alpina, Cheilanthes aurantiaca, Sue Olsen, 2003 128th SE, Bellevue, WA 98007.</p>	<p>The Sixth Annual NOHS Fern Sale will be June 22, 23 - 10 AM - 6 PM, 24 - 10 AM-1 PM. Bellevue Square. Mark your calendar for this <u>special</u> event.</p>

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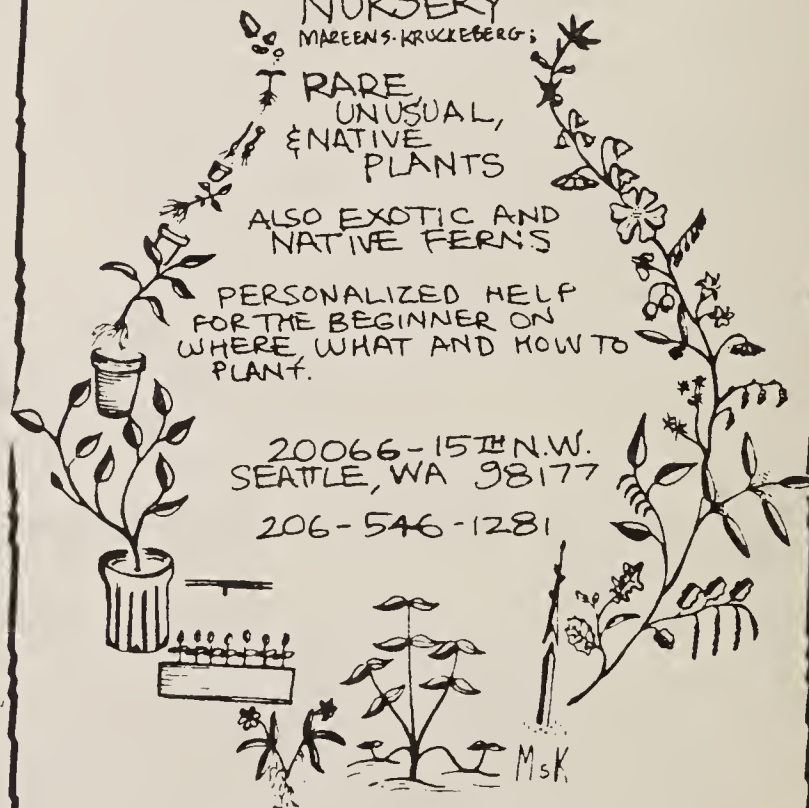
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